

## Claims

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- 3 1. A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative plan-  
4 ning, including  
5 a plurality of hubs, remotely coupled to each other;  
6 a set of information stored in a database coupled to each said hub, wherein said  
7 set of information is owned by business entities relatively proximate to each said hub;  
8 a computer program coupled to each said hub that distinguishes between simple  
9 tasks and complex tasks;  
10 a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to  
11 performing simple tasks; and  
12 a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to  
13 performing complex tasks.  
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- 15 2. A system as in claim 2, wherein at least one hub is designated as a re-  
16 gional authority with respect to synchronizing said set of information stored at other said hubs.  
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- 18 3. A system as in claim 2, wherein said set of information is synchronized by  
19 restricting which hub in said plurality of hubs can perform a write operation to the set of infor-  
20 mation.  
21
- 22 4. A system in claim 2, wherein said regional authority includes a token,  
23 wherein said token permits said regional authority to exercise control.

1                   5.       A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority  
2 is determined by at least one of the following: (1) subnet location, (2), class of goods, (3)  
3 proximity to a valued client and (4) network locations as measured by geography or network lo-  
4 cation.

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6                   6.       A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority  
7 is responsive to which hub in said plurality of hubs is experiencing more business activity than  
8 other hubs in said plurality of hubs.

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10                  7.       A system as in claim 6, wherein said business activity is measured by at  
11 least one of the following: (1) number of transactions, (2) number of units being trading, and (3)  
12 monetary value of transactions.

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14                  8.       A system as in claim 1, wherein said information regards an electronic  
15 transaction performed by said hub or a business entity that conducts business using said hub.

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17                  9.       A method for processing transactions at a hub, including steps of  
18 receiving a message from a user  
19 parsing said message and determining the relative complexity of tasks associated  
20 with said message;

21                        sending a moderate to high complexity tasks to a heavyweight server, wherein  
22 said moderate to high complexity task is processed and sent to a user; and

1 sending one or more simple tasks to a lightweight server, wherein said simple  
2 tasks are processed and sent to a user.

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4 10. A method as in claim 9, including steps of receiving and processing a set  
5 of information from said user regarding said moderate to complex tasks at said heavyweight  
6 server.

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8 11. A method as in claim 9, wherein said step of processing includes per-  
9 forming a series of calculations and storing a result in a database.

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11 12. A method as in claim 9, including steps of receiving and processing a set  
12 of information from said user regarding said low complexity tasks at said lightweight server.

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14 13. A method as in claim 12, wherein said step of processing includes storing  
15 a record of said information in a database.

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17 14. A memory storing information including instructions, the instructions ex-  
18 ecutable by a processing, the instructions including  
19 receiving a message from a user;  
20 parsing said message and determining the relative complexity of tasks associated  
21 with said message;  
22 sending a moderate to high complexity tasks to a heavyweight server, wherein  
23 said moderate to high complexity task is processed and sent to a user; and

1            sending a low complexity task to a light weight server, wherein said low complex  
2 tasks is processed and set to a user.

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4            15.    A memory as in claim 14, including instructions for receiving and proc-  
5 essing a set of information from said user regarding said moderate to complex tasks at said  
6 heavyweight server.

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8            16.    A memory as in claim 14 wherein said instruction for processing includes  
9 performing a series of calculations and storing a result in a database.

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11           17.    A memory as in claim 14, including instructions for receiving and proc-  
12 essing a set of information from said user regarding said low complexity tasks at said light  
13 weight server.

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15           18.    A memory as in claim 17, wherein said instruction for processing includes  
16 storing a record of said information in a database.